

HONORING MR. FEDERICO "KIKO"
ZUNIGA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Federico "Kiko" Zuniga, of Laredo, Texas, in recognition of his being elected Chairman of the International Federation of Customs Brokers Association (IFCBA) during their biannual conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

The IFCBA is made up of customs broker organizations from 27 countries around the world, and is headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Zuniga has been a member of the IFCBA board since 2003, and for the past 2 years has served as one of the organization's managing directors. In addition to being a part of IFCBA, Mr. Zuniga also is Chairman of the National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA), and prior to that, served as the president of NCBFAA for 4 years. He is currently a member of the Department Advisory Committee for the commercial Operation of Customs and Border Protection (COAC) and related agencies. Mr. Zuniga has been a licensed customs broker since 1984 and is part owner of F. Zuniga, Inc., the brokerage his father started in Laredo, Texas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the hard work and dedication of Mr. Federico "Kiko" Zuniga to the City of Laredo, to his wife, Bobbie, and to his family. He is a truly deserving recipient of the great honor of being elected chairman of the International Federation of Customs Brokers Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I regret that yesterday I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of roll-call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 6685, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans. I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 1907, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act, to protect the environmental integrity of undeveloped coastal and estuarine areas. I also would have voted "yes" on H.R. 6853, the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force Act of 2008, to protect borrowers from unscrupulous actors in the mortgage market.

I ask unanimous consent that my statement be included in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on September 22, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be in the Chamber for a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 616, H.R. 6685, legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 423

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce this important resolution calling for a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, and condemning the ongoing assaults and obstruction by the Khartoum regime. I am joined in this effort by my distinguished colleagues Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. WOLF of Virginia.

The tragedy of Darfur seems to know no end. After years of violence and death, the genocide in Darfur continues this month with renewed fighting between the Khartoum regime and rebel forces. Once again, entire villages have been decimated, civilians have been slaughtered and thousands have been left homeless.

We cannot turn away from the violence before us. We must continue to raise the issues of Darfur that confront our Nation and the international community. While the violence is perpetrated by those who carry the guns and drop the bombs, we have a responsibility as well.

I am proud of the young people in my own district who have worked to raise awareness of the crisis in Darfur. Zack Harris, now a sophomore at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, learned about the conflict in Darfur 2 years ago and became determined to help. As the eighth grade student president at Central School in Glencoe, he organized "Dance for Darfur," a fundraiser for the Luol Deng Foundation. Named after the Chicago Bulls player from Sudan, the foundation works with the World Food Program in Darfur to assist with food distribution. The "Dance for Darfur" was the first charity dance ever held at the school, and helped raise awareness at the school and in the community. In total, Zack raised more than \$5,000.

In March of this year, I organized a Model Congress with high school students from all across the 10th District. They held hearings and markups on the Darfur Peace and Security Act to bring an end to the genocide. Together, they amended and passed this comprehensive bill to provide humanitarian aid and adopt strict sanctions, along with other measures, to stop the violence in the region.

Other organizations such as the Chicago Coalition to Save Darfur, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, Congregation Beth Or in Deerfield, IL, and Chicago Tikun are all working to bring awareness to the crisis.

Like these students and activists, Congress and the administration must remain committed to ending the tragedy that is unfolding before our eyes. We must build upon the basic achievements that we have won to ensure the full deployment of the UNAMID mission, full access to humanitarian aid, full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and full accountability of the Khartoum government for all its actions.

The U.S. must collaborate with the international community condemn the actions of the Khartoum regime, which have demonstrated the worst that humanity has to offer, and implement a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis in Darfur.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to bring attention to the plight of the Darfurians and work to find a lasting comprehensive strategy to address this crisis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 22, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 6685, H.R. 1907, and H.R. 6853 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 616, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6685, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 617, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1907, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 618, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6853, the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator Act of 2008, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL
DAY CELEBRATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their upcoming National Day on October 10.

The Republic of China, Taiwan, is a strong American ally in the Pacific. Although it is a small island nation, it has a growing and progressive economy, providing its citizens with quality education, health, and affordable housing. Also, with its well-educated population, Taiwan is an ideal place for business entrepreneurship. Much of Taiwan's economic prowess is directly attributable to the stability of Taiwan's political system.

A vibrant democracy, Taiwan's history of democratization is an important example of how other countries can change. In a little more than 2 decades, Taiwan has peacefully transformed its political system, from

authoritarianism to democratic government, providing a role model for other non-democratic political governments in Asia.

We hope that in the years ahead, Taiwan and China will continue to reduce their bilateral tensions. Cross-strait relations have been improving: There are now charter flights from Taiwan to the mainland, relaxation of China-bound investments, more visas for mainland tourists, and more exchange in many areas. Taiwan's new President, Ma Ying-jeou, is committed to pursue reconciliation and truce with the People's Republic. President Ma looks for peace and coprosperity with the People's Republic.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan and a warm welcome to Ambassador Jason Yuan. Ambassador Yuan is a distinguished career diplomat and will most definitely represent his country well. I look forward to working with Ambassador Yuan, and welcome him to Washington, DC.

HONORING MICHAEL STRAMMEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Strammel of Liberty, Missouri. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Strammel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OPPOSING THE COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the sham legislation Speaker PELOSI unfurls for us this week. For months, energy and gas costs have impacted every aspect of Americans' lives—prices at the pump, the cost of a gallon of milk, school board budgets, etc.—and today, the Speaker believes that we have cause to celebrate, because at long last, she has unveiled from the deep recesses of her chambers a bill with the word “energy” in the title.

But when the champagne toast is over and the streamers come down, all America gets in this so-called “energy” bill, is hot air and higher taxes. The bill is merely a reflection of the status-quo, and a fraud on the American consumer paying \$4 a gallon gas.

The reality is:

This bill blocks production and 35 years worth of American oil in 88 percent of the outercontinental shelf!

Impedes production in ANWR, with a projected 10 billion barrels of oil, and permanently locks up a trillion barrels of western oil shale.

New refineries to be built on American soil with this bill? Not a chance.

Fifty percent of our power is from coal, yet there is zero encouragement of coal-to-liquids development or clean coal generation.

Even emissions-free nuclear energy gets a backseat in this bill.

Don't look for pro-production measures to reduce prices at the pump, you won't find them here.

What this bill does do is raises taxes and increases electricity costs for families, seniors and small businesses already feeling their wallets being pinched by high gas prices and rising home heating costs.

Simply put, today we do nothing to provide relief at the pump to the citizens of Kentucky and elsewhere. Let's take off our party hats and call today's festivities what they really are—a thinly veiled effort to inoculate the Speaker in November and appease a small group of special interests. I urge my colleagues to reject this Election Day mirage and demand meaningful comprehensive energy legislation for the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed on September 22, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall 616 on H.R. 6685; “yea” on rollcall 617 on H.R. 1907; and “yea” on rollcall 618 on H.R. 6853.

COMPACT WILL PROTECT GREAT LAKES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes are one of the great treasures of the world and are fully 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply. They are unique in our Nation and unique on this planet. But the Great Lakes are especially near and dear to those of us in Michigan, the Great Lakes State.

The Great Lakes are part of our identity as 4 of the 5 Lakes touch Michigan's shore. The Lakes are important to our State for commerce, for recreation, for drinking water, and for tourism. They are an invaluable part of the environment. The Great Lakes deserve every protection to ensure that they remain a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

One of the primary reasons I ran for Congress was to preserve and protect the Great Lakes. I have been proud to work with my col-

leagues on issues like invasive species, the Great Lakes Legacy Act, and the Water Resources Development Act. Today, the House will take a historic step towards protecting this treasure by ratifying the Great Lakes Compact.

The compact is a binding agreement among the Great Lakes States to implement a conservation standard for regulating water withdrawals from the Great Lakes Basin. This document will essentially ban new and increased diversions of water outside the Great Lakes Basin with only limited, highly regulated exceptions. It also establishes a framework for each State to enact laws protecting the basin.

There is no doubt that water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource, both around the world and here in the United States. Droughts in the Southeast and the West have demonstrated quite clearly that we cannot simply take abundant freshwater for granted. In fact, a recent issue of BusinessWeek screamed the headline: “There Will Be Water: Why T. Boone Pickens Thinks It's the New Oil.” Water shortages will undoubtedly lead to jurisdictional fights over access.

The Great Lakes Region has taken it upon themselves to work through these issues before areas outside the basin attempt to access water from the Great Lakes. I am proud of our region for coming together to decide the future of the Great Lakes before others have the opportunity to do that for us.

This measure will ensure the continued protection of the Great Lakes for generations to come, and I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of the Great Lakes Compact.

RECOGNIZING KYLE HOUSTON

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Kyle Houston of Butler, Kentucky. On September 29, 2007, Kyle distinguished himself in a crisis situation when a kitchen fire erupted in his grandparents' home.

At the time of the fire, Kyle was watching television with his grandfather, Paul Green. Mr. Green has emphysema and receives oxygen 24 hours a day. In a display of courage, maturity and composure that far exceeded his 8 years of age, Kyle responded to the emergency quickly and effectively. Kyle roused his grandfather and helped him out of the house, then reentered the smoky home to retrieve his grandfather's portable oxygen tank. He then helped his grandfather reattach his oxygen tank and ensured that it was working properly. Finally, Kyle called 9-1-1 and alerted his parents to the situation.

Without his grandson's quick response, Mr. Green could have suffered extremely severe injuries from smoke inhalation. On October 6, 2008, in recognition of Kyle's heroism, Cub Scout Pack 75 will present Kyle with the Heroism Award for putting into practice Scouting skills and ideals. Kyle is a first year Webelos Scout with Pack 75.

Kyle's composure during what must have been a very frightening event is impressive. Kyle's mother and father have many reasons to be proud of their incredible son.